

Remarks

Claims 1 - 18 are pending in the instant application. No amendments to the claims have been made. Changes to the specification and abstract are included within this response.

The various aspects of different drawings have been objected to in the Office Action. The Applicants believe that the drawings correctly reflect the invention as claimed and that each of the elements in the drawings is explained in the specification of the invention. The Applicants will address each objection individually below:

(1) The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "145" has been used to designate both n level metallization and the inner portion between 455b2 and 455b1 in Figure 7a...

First, the Applicants believe that the character is questions is 445 not 145. The Applicants could not find a reference to character 145 in the either the specification or the drawings. Further, please note that character "445" refers only to n level metallization as indicated in Figure 7a, while character "465" refers to the inner portion between 445b2 and 445b1, as also shown in Figure 7a. Therefore, the applicants believe that there is no correction to be made in Figure 7a.

(2) The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because... they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 465 on page 22, line 18... As stated previously, character "465" refers to the inner portion between 445b2 and 445b1, as indicated in Figure 7a.

(3) The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because ... they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: 110 (a-c) & 120 (a-c) in Figure 5a-5c and 475 in Figure 9... The Applicants believe that each of the elements in the

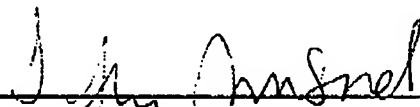
figures is now adequately described in the specification. The paragraph starting with page 13, line 1 has been amended to describe 110 (a-c) and 120 (a-c) 110 (a-c) represent prior levels of metallization and 120 (a-c) represent next level metalizations. Character "475" as referenced is mentioned in page 17, line 8, and thus no change is believed to be needed.

Lastly, the Applicants have reformatted the Abstract so that it is clear that the Applicants meant the Abstract to be one paragraph.

Reconsideration of the listed objections in the Office Action is respectfully requested. The Applicants request that this application be moved to allowance with the removal of the objections.

Respectfully submitted,
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